

6th February 1924]

(8) whether the kumki lands are generally not in continuation of Government forests (reserve or otherwise) ?

A.—(1) & (2) A statement containing the information is placed on the table.*

(3) There is a private sandalwood distillery in Puttige village surrounded by cultivated lands and not by forests. The nearest police station is four miles distant from the distillery.

(4) Twelve cases of theft other than those referred to in clause 1 have been detected since 1918 by forest subordinates. No one was convicted ; in one case the charge against six accused was withdrawn for want of sufficient evidence ; in another, the case was compounded and in the remaining cases the accused could not be traced.

A special staff of one forester and three forest guards is being maintained to prevent theft of sandalwood.

(5) No sandalwood was purchased from the Government by the distillery owner in question and the Government have no authentic information as to the quantity of oil sold by him.

(6) It is generally speaking true that wargdars live in solitary houses.

(7) A total sum of Rs. 392 has been levied as penalty from six wargdars in the North Mangalore division. In the South Mangalore division there has been one case of theft which is under enquiry.

(8) They are generally contiguous to Government forests or unreserved land.

Mr. B. MAHABALA HEGDE :—“ With reference to clause (4) I want to ask whether the Government will take steps to institute proper check ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid, Sir, I must have notice of that question.”

High Court Judges.

Number of High Court Judges.

155 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has since received any definite proposals from the High Court for an increase in the number of Judges ;

(b) if so, for how many new Judges ; and

(c) whether the Government have sanctioned or recommended to higher authorities any increase in the number of Judges ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Two.

(c) No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ The answer to clause (c) is ‘ no ’. May I know whether that decision of the Government is final or whether they are still considering the matter and are likely to sanction anything.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ So far as I can see there is no chance of any further recommendation.”